



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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**FINAL TWO FORMER BORDER PATROL AGENTS SENTENCED FOR SCHEME THAT
ALLOWED DRUGS THROUGH SIERRA BLANCA CHECKPOINT WITHOUT INSPECTION**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in El Paso this morning, David Garcia and Jesus Delgado were sentenced to two years and one year plus one day in federal prison, respectively, for their roles in a scheme to smuggle controlled substances and illegal aliens through the Border Patrol's Sierra Blanca checkpoint without inspection.

In addition, United States District Judge Frank Montalvo ordered that the former Marfa Sector Border Patrol agents be placed under supervised release for a period of two years after completing their prison terms.

On May 11, 2005, Garcia pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance. By pleading guilty, Garcia admitted that for several days in August 2004, he conspired with others to allow more than 50 kilograms of marijuana through the checkpoint without inspection in exchange for approximately \$1,000.

On July 15, 2005, Delgado pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to smuggle illegal aliens. By pleading guilty, Delgado admitted that in April 2004, he allowed between 8 and 24 illegal aliens to pass through the checkpoint without inspection in exchange for \$700.

"We should commend the dedicated men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol for risking their lives to protect our country and secure its borders. However, when we catch rogue agents joining forces with the criminals, justice demands that they too serve time behind bars," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

Three other individuals have been sentenced in connection with this investigation. On September 21, 2005, former Border Patrol agent Aldo Manuel Erives was sentenced to 127 months imprisonment for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance. On September 29, 2005, Aldo's brother, Jose Lehi Erives, was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison on the same charge. On October 4, 2005, former Marfa Sector Border Patrol agent Robert Espino was sentenced to eight years in federal prison on the same charge.

These cases were investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security - Office of Inspector General. Assistant United States Attorneys Mark Greenberg and Greg McDonald are prosecuting these cases on behalf of the government.

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